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Jury Selection In Bomb-Death Trial Begins

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) —Jury selection began today in the murder trial of Sam H. Bowers Jr., identified by the FBI as former Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Bowers, 44, of Laurel, was charged with the murder of Negro leader Vernon Dahmer when his home was fire-bombed in 1966.

Bowers was indicted last November after winning a mistrial on arson charges stemming from the fire-bombing.

He was one of 13 men originally indicted for arson and among eight of those since indicted for murder.

Roy Pitts, a key state witness at Bowers' arson trial, testified that Bowers gave the orders to burn Dahmer's home and store and kill him if possible.